certain categories of beneficiaries; (iii) sale of excess stocks in open market sales etc.

(c) The Central Government, in consultation with the State Governments and UT Administrations have decided to adopt an area approach to focus attention on an effective reach of essential commodities. For this purpose, about 1700 Blocks have been identified, viz. areas covered by Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), certain Designated Hill Areas (DHA) and Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP) for issue of ration cards to the uncovered population in these areas, introduction of door step delivery system and creation of additional storage capacity for stocking of PDS items.

Violation of the Code of Bureau of Indian Standards

1350. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in 'Financial Express' dated 2nd November, 1991 under the caption "The Games big houses play";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action taken against them for violating the code of Bureau of Indian Standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The allegation regarding violation the code of Bureau of Indian Standards by large companies and misuse of ISI mark by them are not correct, and hence the Government do not propose to take any action against them.

Role of Public Distribution System in curbing price rise

1351. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether efforts aimed at keeping the downward trend of prices of cereals have succeeded; and

(b) if not, the remedial measures Government propose to take to make the Public Distribution System a success in curbing the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) There has been increase in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) of "All Commodities" including cereals during the last one year, ending 16th November 1991. Keeping in view the lean season for kharif cereals, the Government decided to increase the PDS allocations to States/UTs for the months of August to October, 1991.

As a further measure to check the rise in open market prices, the Government permitted FCI to sell, in open market 3 lakh tonnes each of Rice and Wheat in October, 1991. A further quantity of 3 lakh tonnes of wheat has been permitted to be sold in December, 1991. The Public Distribution System (PDS) has been envisaged as a supplementary effort which helps protect the purchasing power of weaker sections of the population.

Demand of edible oil

1352. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the production and demand gap of edible oil during last six months;

(b) whether the gap was met by imports of edible oil;